

the 100th Chemical Group. In January 1969 he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps School, which made him one of the first Sergeants Major to be promoted to the new rank of CSM.

CSM (Ret) Murray is a veteran of both the Pacific and European Theaters of Operations during World II. He is a veteran of Pearl Harbor and the campaigns of Northern France, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Rhineland and Germany. His awards include the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC).

After his retirement in 1969, CSM Murray accepted a position as Safety Supervisor, with the FMC Corporation in Anniston, Alabama. He continues to be active supporting the Chemical Corps Museum and the Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA). He served as the first Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment and is a member of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Hall of Fame. He currently lives in Anniston with his wife, Theddie, but will soon be moving to Texas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking George for his service to our country.

HONORING MARIE FORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Marie Ford.

Mrs. Ford is the daughter of the late Mrs. Clay D. Moore. She is married to Mr. Charles Ford and the mother of two daughters, Luetrina and Catrina. She has two grandsons and three siblings.

Mrs. Ford is a retired educator but continues to work on a part-time basis in education. She received her education in the Greenville Public School District. She attended Lucy L. Webb Elementary School and graduated from Coleman High School in 1964. She furthered her education at Mississippi Valley State University, graduating with degrees in Biology and Chemistry in 1969. She later received a Masters Degree from Delta State University in Biology in 1975.

Her teaching career has spanned some 40 plus years. She began teaching at Coleman High School, then Leland Middle School, and eventually Leland High School, where she officially retired in 2009.

Mrs. Ford is a member of the Greater St. Peter M.B. Church, pastored by Dr. Jesse King. She serves as the church's secretary and Superintendent of the Sunday school. She also serves as the Dean of the Washington County General Baptist Association, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Marie Ford for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

TRIBUTE TO VIC NOER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vic Noer, of Bedford, Iowa for being awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Bedford Area Chamber.

Vic has lived in Bedford for 52 years where he has worked as a house painter and ran a movie theatre. He has welcomed local kids to play basketball on his "green court" while teaching them skills and helping them learn about the game. He served on the Bibbins Park Board for 30 years while also being active on the library, museum, and Hospice of Central Iowa boards. He spent many years as the camp director for the Western Iowa Chapter for Muscular Dystrophy and is still very active with the Bedford Iowa Lions Club.

Mr. Speaker, the examples set by Vic demonstrate the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and constituents like him, in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Vic Noer for his achievement and wish him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PESHTIGO FIRE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire. The Great Peshtigo Fire claimed more lives than any other fire in our nation's history, but it is an often-overlooked tragedy. Few of us can imagine a blaze large enough to consume millions of acres across Northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. Yet the destructive force of the fire is a powerful testament to the resilience of the Wisconsinites who emerged from the tragedy and rebuilt from the ashes.

The year 1871 was a defining moment for the survivors who, with no exceptions, lost family members, neighbors, friends, homes, and businesses. The village of Peshtigo lost more than half its residents to the fire on the night of October 8, 1871. The exact number of deaths is uncertain because many loggers traveled in and out of the city each day, however, most estimates indicate that more than 700 people died in Peshtigo as fire consumed the city. Hundreds more perished in the smaller communities spread across the 1.5 million acres destroyed by the blaze.

Although the village of Peshtigo was built on both sides of the Peshtigo River, the fire spread too quickly for many to escape. Eyewitnesses described the firestorm as a roaring tornado that fell from the sky with searing heat. By the following morning, the village was reduced to a blackened wasteland in which almost nothing recognizable remained. As survivors emerged from the river, they discovered

that the blaze had melted even metal coins and casks of nails.

The Great Peshtigo Fire occurred during an often-forgotten chapter in American history that witnessed three of the worst fires on record break out across the Midwest. Although the Great Peshtigo Fire is sometimes overshadowed by the Great Chicago fire that occurred at the same time, the fire in Wisconsin was far deadlier and remains the worst in U.S. history. Indeed, news of the destruction in Peshtigo may have been slow to spread because the fire had consumed telegraph wires as it burned.

Despite this unprecedented destruction, the residents of Peshtigo gradually rebuilt their city and worked hard to make it a thriving community once more. In offering this proclamation today, it is my hope that this tragic episode will remain in the public memory. I invite this body to recognize the victims of the Great Peshtigo Fire—a blaze that stands as our country's worst in both its size and lethality. I also want to commemorate the extraordinary resilience of the survivors who, though they lost everything, set out to rebuild their lives and their town. It is a testimony to their efforts that Peshtigo recovered and became a vibrant community again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in recognizing the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This Act has saved millions of migratory birds, protecting over one thousand species important to Americans and our natural world.

Since being signed into law in 1918, the MBTA has played a pivotal role in animal welfare. Within my own state of Michigan and in the 12th district, birds contribute greatly to the environment of our region. Southeast Michigan even includes designated Important Bird Areas like the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie Basin, which are used extensively for migration by waterfowl such as Canvasbacks, Tundra Swans, and more. What's more, their presence also provides substantial economic benefits. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that there are more than 2 million birders in Michigan, and throughout our nation there are over 45 million birders who collectively spend around \$41 billion on bird-watching each year. And birds remain in serious need of protection. According to the 2016 State of the Birds Report, from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, more than one third of North American bird species are in need of urgent conservation action. Most of the U.S. species are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so this foundational law remains key to their conservation.

100 years after its implementation, it is critical that we ensure the MBTA's continued success. We owe our children and our grandchildren the joy of experiencing the rich bird